In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An imaging unit mounted on a compact portable terminal equipment, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

(a) a flexible printed circuit board having an opening portion at a predetermined position;

(b) an imaging element which is connected, by flip-chip mounting, to one side of said circuit board so as to cover at least part of the opening portion and expose an imaging area;

(c) a reinforcing member which is made of a non-metallic material having a linear expansion coefficient of 1×10^{-5} (cm/cm/°C) and is attached to the other side of said circuit board to reinforce said circuit board; and

(d) an optical member which is provided to guide object light from a surface on the reinforcing member side to the imaging area of said imaging element through the opening portion.

2.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The imaging unit according to claim 1 [[4]], ~~characterized in that the nonmetal~~ wherein the reinforcing member consisting of said non-metallic material is made of glass or ceramics.

7. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The imaging unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when said reinforcing member is to be attached to said flexible printed circuit board, a thermosetting adhesive is used.

8. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The imaging unit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flexible printed circuit board includes no adhesive layer between a base matrix and a copper layer.

9. (Currently amended) An imaging unit mounted on a compact portable terminal equipment, comprising:

(a) a flexible printed circuit board having an opening portion at a predetermined position;

(b) an imaging element which is connected, by flip-chip mounting, to one side of said circuit board so as to cover at least part of the opening portion and expose an imaging area;

(c) a reinforcing member which is made of a non-metallic material having a linear expansion coefficient of 1×10^{-5} (cm/cm/°C) and is attached to the other side of said circuit board to reinforce said circuit board; and

(d) an optical member which is provided to guide object light from a surface on the reinforcing member side to the imaging area of said imaging element through the opening portion;

~~according to claim 8, characterized in that~~ wherein notched portions are formed in the opening portion of said flexible printed circuit board.

10. (Original) A portable terminal equipment characterized by mounting an imaging unit defined in claim 1.

11. (New) An imaging unit according to claim 9, wherein when said reinforcing member is to be attached to said flexible printed circuit board, a thermosetting adhesive is used.

12. (New) An imaging unit according to claim 9, wherein said flexible printed circuit board includes no adhesive layer between a base matrix and a copper layer.

13. (New) A portable terminal equipment characterized by mounting an imaging unit defined in claim 9.